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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-10 /083 W
---------- 009059
R 061130Z OCT 75
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4249
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USCINCLANT
USCINCEUR

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1. QUOTE: UNITA DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION MANUEL BARBOSA, TOLD ME SEPTEMBER 30 THAT UNITA PRESIDENT JONAS SAVIMBI DECIDED TO PROHIBIT THE DEPARTURE OF NATIVE BORN ANGOLANS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH BUREAU DIRECTORS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH POLICY APPLIED TO NATIVE-BORN WHITES,BLACKS, AND MESTIZOS, AN EXCEPTION WOULD BE MADE IN CASE OF WHITES WHO HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE. DECISION BYNATIVE-BORN WHITES TO FLEE TO PORTUGAL, IN UNITA VIEW, ALSO CONSTITUTES RENUNCIATION OF ANGOLAN CITIZENSHIP. NATIVE- BORN WHITES WHO LEAVE CAN ONLY RETURN TO ANGOLA AS FOREIGNERS AND SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO RECOVER THEIR PROPERTY HERE.

BARBOSA SAID DECISION TO PROHIBIT DEPARTURE OF NATIVE-BORN ANGOLANS WAS BASED ON POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HE SAID FLIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF BLACKS FROM CENTRAL ZONE TO LISBON WOULD CREATED ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT UNITA DID NOT HAVE CONTROL OF THIS AREA. FACT IS THAT UNITA DOES CONTROL AREA AND IS CAPABLE OF DEFENDING POPULATION. AS FOR HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, BARBOSA SAID THAT PORTUGAL'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE SO SEVERE THAT
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EVEN RETURNING PORTUGESE WILL SUFFER HARDSHIP AND DEPRIVATION

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ON LEVEL NOT KNOWN HERE. IF PORTUGAL CANNOT TAKE CARE OF
OF ITS OWN CITIZENS IT CERTAINLY COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO
CARE FOR BLACKS FROM ANGOLA. THUS UNITA DECISION WOULD SPARE
BLACK ANGOLANS SUFFERING AND GRIEF.

3. BARBOSA SAID DECISION APPLIED TO BLACK SPOUSES OF PORTUGESE
CITIZENS AND TO CHILDREN OF INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES. IN THOSE
CASES, WHITE SPOUSE OR PARENT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE IF THEY
WISHED BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES COULD THE BLACK OR MESTIZO
MEMBERS OF FAMILY DEPART.

4. ON SEPTEMBER 30 I WATCHED UNITA SOLDIERS ENFORCE THE DECISION
TO PROHIBIT EVACUATION OF NATIVE-BORN ANGOLANS. SOME NINE OR TEN
ARMED SOLDIERS SCREENED BOARDING LINES AT THE AIRPORT AND SIMPLY
ORDERED BLACK ANGOLAN EVACUEES TO STEP OUT OF LINE AND LEAVE
AIRPORT. (BLACK CAPE VERDEANS ON WAY TO LISBON WERE ALLOWED
TO LEAVE, HOWEVER). FAMILIES AFFECTED INCLUDED SOME THAT WERE ALL
BLACK AND SOME THAT WERE BI-RACIAL. IN ALL CASES, FAMILIES WERE
GRIEF-STRICKEN AND IMPLORED SOLDIERS TO ALLOW THEM TO BOARD.
WITHOUT SUCESS, THEY ARGUED THAT BAGGAGE REPRESENTING LIFE'S
BELONGINGS
HAD ALREADY BEEN LOADED, HOMES AND FURNISHINGS ALREADY SOLD,
EMPLOYMENT TERMINATED. AND THAT THEY HAD NOTHING LEFT IN THIS
COUNTRY. ONE HYSTERICAL MOTHER SCREAMED THAT TWO OF HER SONS
WERE ALREADY IN PORTUGAL, AND MOURNFUL FATHER PLEADED THAT HE
THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO GO TO RECOVER A YOUNG SON WHO BY
MISTAKE HAD BEEN PLACED ON AN EARLIER FLIGHT.
TWO FAMILIES TRIED THREETIMES TO BOARD DIFFERENT FLIGHTS BUT
WERE TURNED BACK EACH TIME. TWICE FAMILIES BOARDED AIRCRAFT
IN DEFIANCE OF SOLDIERS AND TROOP COMMANDER ORDERED PLANES HELD
ON GROUND UNTIL FAMILIES EXITED.

5. SEVERAL BLACKS MANAGED TO SNEAK ON AIRCRAFT WHEN SOLDIERS
OTHERWISE OCCUPIED, AND SEVERAL OTHERS BRIBED THEIR WAY ON,
THE TOUGH TROOP COMMANDER WHO WAS UNMOVABLE BY THE MOTHER'S
CRIES AND THE FATHER'S PLEAS FINALLY COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO
SEPERATE A YOUNG BLACK GIRL FROM HER ELDERLY PORTUGUESE
STEP PARENTS. HE ORDERED HER OUT OF LINE TWICE AND THEN
YIELDED TO HIS EMOTIONS AND ALLOWED HER TO BOARD THE AIRCRAFT.
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